

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Steam iron (1) having a steam chamber (3), a heating soleplate (2) comprising a heating body (21) having an upper face ~~(211)~~₍₂₁₂₎ constituting a heating wall of said steam chamber, a part (8) having multiple functions constituting at the same time a heat shield and a skirt (85) of the iron, wherein the part (8) having multiple functions constitutes at least in part the steam chamber (3) above the soleplate (2), the part having multiple functions further comprises a downwardly extending rib that extends down to said soleplate and limits the steam chamber laterally, and the iron further comprises at least one joint forming a seal between the rib and the soleplate and joining said rib to said soleplate.

2. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 1, having a water reservoir (4), wherein said reservoir has a bottom, constituted by the part (8) with multiple functions.

3. (Original) Steam iron according to claim 1 characterized in that the part (8) having multiple functions is of heat resistant plastic.

4. (Original) Steam iron according to claim 3 characterized in that the plastic of the multifunction part (8) is a polyester or a polysulfone.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 4 characterized in that the at least one joint is an elastomer foam seal (84).

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 3 characterized in that the at least one joint is an elastomer foam seal (84).

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 2 characterized in that the at least one joint is an elastomer foam seal (84).

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 1 characterized in that the at least one joint is an elastomer foam seal (84).